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Security Information

10 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Incentive Awards Committee
FROM: Comptroller
SUBJECT: Employee Suggestion - Number 356

1. In accordance with request contained in your memorandum of 27 July 1953, subject suggestion has been reviewed by appropriate members of this office.

2. The basic suggestion involves placing restrictions on travel accommodations which would result in the allowance of less than the first class accommodations authorized by Agency Regulations and pertinent travel regulations promulgated by the Bureau of the Budget. Although it is obvious that such action would result in some savings, it is our opinion that this is a matter on which this Agency should not take independent action. To provide that employees of this Agency could not utilize accommodations equal to those generally provided other government employees (assuming appropriate legal authority to do so) would undoubtedly result in immediate claims of unfair discrimination. Adjustments in travel allowances are rigidly controlled by regulations having government wide application in order that all groups of employees will receive the same entitlements under similar circumstances.

3. Recently the Department of State in an amendment to its Foreign Service Travel Regulations, limited accommodations to cabin class or less for certain travelers on certain lines. Since this Agency is governed by these regulations, the suggestion offered by the suggestor is already in effect to the extent that generally applicable regulations have been issued.

4. In regard to the allegations contained in Paragraph 1c of the subject suggestion, travelers are entitled to reimbursement only for actual cost of transportation used. A claim for reimbursement for accommodations of a higher, more costly type than actually utilized is a false claim and subjects the person making such false claim to severe criminal penalties. We have no knowledge of any such claims having been presented and processed. If the suggestor has specific information of any cases where false claims have been presented, we request that they be identified to this office with full details in order that appropriate consideration may be given to appropriate disciplinary or legal action.


E. R. SAUNDERS

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READY FOR COMMITTEE ACTION
NON-AWARD